

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer program product comprising a computer program stored on a computer readable storage medium, wherein said computer program comprises instructions executable by a processor to:
 - maintain a first component representing a first entity in a system;
 - maintain a second component representing a second entity in the system;
 - maintain a relationship discovery rule;
 - apply the relationship discovery rule to determine if the second component should be in a relationship with the first component; and
 - establish the relationship if it is determined that second component should be in a relationship with the first component.
2. The computer program product of Claim 1, wherein the relationship represents a dependency between the first entity and the second entity.
3. The computer program product of Claim 1, wherein the relationship discovery rule further comprises a set of criteria.
4. The computer program product of Claim 3, wherein a criteria from the set of criteria specifies that at least one property of the second component must have a particular value.
5. The computer program product of Claim 3, wherein a criteria from the set of criteria specifies that the second component must be of a particular component type for the second component to be in the relationship with the first component.
6. The computer program product of Claim 3, wherein a criteria from the set of criteria specifies that the second component must be

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in an already established relationship for the second component to be in the relationship with the first component.

7. The computer program product of Claim 1, wherein the first component and the second component are maintained according to a generic data model.

8. The computer program product of Claim 7, wherein the relationship discovery rule further comprises an executable script.

9. The computer program product of Claim 8, wherein the computer program comprises instructions executable to associate the script with a first component type of which the first component is a member.

10. The computer program product of Claim 9, wherein the computer program comprises instructions executable to determine whether the second component should be in a relationship with the first component based on one or more criteria specified in the script.

11. The computer program product of Claim 9, wherein the computer program further comprises instructions executable to store the relationship in a first database table.

12. The computer program product of Claim 11, wherein the first component and second component are stored in a second database table separate from the first database table.

13. The computer program product of Claim 7, wherein the first component and the second component represent entities in an information technology ("IT") environment.

14. A method for discovering relationships comprising:
maintaining a first component representing a first entity in a
system;
maintaining a second component representing a second entity in
the system;
maintaining a relationship discovery rule;
applying the relationship discovery rule to determine if the
second component should be in a relationship with the first component;
and
establishing the relationship if it is determined that second
component should be in a relationship with the first component.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the relationship represents
a dependency between the first entity and the second entity.

16. The method of Claim 14, wherein the relationship discovery
rule further comprises a set of criteria.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein applying the relationship
discovery rule to determine if the second component should be in a
relationship with the first component further comprises determining if
a property of the second component has a value meeting at least one
criteria from the set of criteria.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein applying the relationship
discovery rule to determine if the second component should be in a
relationship with the first component further comprises determining if
the second component is of a particular component type.

19. The method of Claim 16, wherein applying the relationship
discovery rule to determine if the second component should be in a

relationship with the first component further comprises determining if the second component is in an already established relationship.

20. The method of claim 14, further comprising storing the relationship in a first database table.

22. The method of Claim 20, wherein the first component and second component are stored in a second database table separate from the first database table.

23. The method of Claim 20, further comprising storing the relationship in a database table according to a generic data model.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein the generic data model models an information technology ("IT") environment.

24. The method of Claim 14, wherein maintaining a relationship discovery rule further comprises maintaining an executable script.

25. The method of Claim 24, further comprising associating the executable script with the first component.